What is claimed is:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. A composition for preventing or treating autoimmune disease comprising α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. A composition for preventing or treating Sjögren's syndrome comprising α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

4. The composition of claim 3 wherein the molecular weight of said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 2K to about 240K.

5. The composition of claim 3 wherein said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof contains or comprises an amino acid sequence substantially shown by Arg-Gln-Lys-Leu-Glu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Phe-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gln-Arg-Asp-Ala-Glu-Glu-Leu.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein the molecular weight of said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 100K to about 140K.

7. The composition of claim 3 wherein said α-fodrin fragment is an α-fodrin fragment protein available upon proteolysis of α-fodrin with a protease.

8. A diagnostic agent for autoimmune disease comprising α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof.

9. A diagnostic agent for Sjögren's syndrome comprising α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment protein thereof, or a salt thereof.

10. The diagnostic agent for Sjögren's syndrome of claim 9 wherein the molecular weight of α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 2K to about 240K.

11. The diagnostic agent for Sjögren's syndrome of claim 9 wherein said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof contains or comprises an amino acid sequence substantially shown by Arg-Gln-Lys-Leu-Glu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Phe-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gln-Arg-Asp-Ala-Glu-Glu-Leu.

12. The diagnostic agent for Sjögren's syndrome of claim 11 wherein the molecular weight of α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 100K to about 140K.

13. A method for detection or assay of an antibody against α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof, which comprises contacting α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with said antibody.

14. A method for preventing or treating autoimmune disease which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein autoimmune disease is Sjögren's syndrome.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the molecular weight of said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 2K to about 240K.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof contains or comprises an amino acid sequence substantially shown by Arg-Gln-Lys-Leu-Glu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Phe-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gln-Arg-Asp-Ala-Glu-Glu-Leu.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the molecular weight of said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 100K to about 140K.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said α-fodrin fragment is an α-fodrin fragment protein available upon proteolysis of α-fodrin with a protease.

20. A method for diagnosing autoimmune disease which comprises detecting or assaying an autoantibody against α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof, which comprises contacting α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with said antibody.

21. A method for diagnosing Sjögren's syndrome which comprises detecting or assaying an autoantibody against α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof, which comprises contacting α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, a fragment thereof, or a salt thereof with said antibody.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the molecular weight of α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 2K to about 240K.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein said α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof contains or comprises an amino acid sequence substantially shown by Arg-Gln-Lys-Leu-Glu-Asp-Ser-Tyr-Arg-Phe-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gln-Arg-Asp-Ala-Glu-Glu-Leu.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the molecular weight of α-fodrin, a mutein thereof, or a fragment thereof is from about 100K to about 140K.